



# 2025 OHIO WORKING FAMILIES PARTY LOCAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you for filling out the Working Families Party Local Candidate Questionnaire. Please answer all the questions that are applicable. This candidate questionnaire is a form fillable PDF. If you haven't already, please download this questionnaire. You should be able to leave all of your answers inside of the PDF.

Once you are finished, please submit the questionnaire using the online form at <https://wfpus.org/endorsement-application-submission>. Please name your document "FirstName\_LastName\_Position".

If you have any questions about the questionnaire or submission, please reach out to Aleensa Starks at <astarks@workingfamilies.org>.

Every local jurisdiction is different. The size of budget, level of autonomy under state law, available resources, and the political landscape will vary widely. Despite these differences, we know that progressive local leaders are making changes in big cities and small towns, on school boards, and in urban, rural, and suburban counties. The following questions will help us understand your priorities and how you hope to make a difference in the lives of your constituents and amplify the goals of the broader progressive movement.

The Working Families Party was formed in 1998 by a coalition of community and labor organizations, grassroots activists, and progressive elected officials who believe that working families need a party of our own to stand up and fight for us -- and elect champions who would fight for us too.

In 2025, WFP will endorse and elect candidates for office who carry a fierce determination to win transformative change that will make a difference in people's lives and build the multiracial democracy that lives up to the promise of America.

If that's you, please continue to the next page and fill out this questionnaire.

## CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

Candidate Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Position you are running for: \_\_\_\_\_

## INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

1. Tell us about who you are, why you are running, what your core values and vision are.

2. Tell us why you want the endorsement of the Working Families Party.

3. What do you hope to accomplish on behalf of the community as a member of the City Council?

4. Have you run for office previously? If so, please provide details.

5. What qualities, skills, life experience, and education do you possess that will be of value as a member of the City Council?

6. Please list all endorsements (with name and contact) you have received up to this point.

7. Describe an example of your experience building explicitly multiracial coalition, or organizing across racial differences.

8. What are your tactics and strategy for a successful campaign?

9. What are the most important issues to you that you will speak about in this campaign?

## EDUCATION

The promise of a democratic society is visible in few places more than in public schools. And yet in the United States today, the grim reality is that public education is a driver of inequality, not a weapon against it. Thanks to an education system funded overwhelmingly by local property taxes, residential segregation by class and race produces educational segregation by class and race, and vice versa. School segregation is worse now than it was 30 years ago.

10. Please help us understand your position on privatizing public education (check all that apply):

- I support a moratorium on expanding the number of charter schools in my district.
- I support requiring existing charter schools to accept any and all students, including special needs students, English language learners, and/or students facing other barriers to education.
- Charter schools should be subject to the same accountability, transparency, collective bargaining, and civil rights standards as public schools in my community.
- I oppose all voucher programs or similar programs to shift public education dollars into private institutions.
- I will work to pass budgets that de-emphasize outside vendor contracts and no-bid contracts and seek to place full-time social workers, guidance counselors, psychologists, nurses, librarians, physical education teachers, music teachers, and art teachers in every school.

11. Will you support legislation guaranteeing universal pre-K for all children in your municipality?

- Yes - Please Explain
- No - Please Explain
- Unsure - Please Explain

12. Do you commit to standing up for LGBTQ students by supporting LGBTQ student groups, advocating for effective anti-bullying policies, protecting the right of students to use the bathroom(s) & other gendered facilities that they feel most closely match their own identity, and generally seeking to implement the Model School District Policy on Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students developed by GLSEN and the National Center on Transgender Equality?

- Yes - Please Explain
- No - Please Explain
- Unsure - Please Explain

**13.** Do you support Release Time for Religious Instruction?

- Yes - Please Explain
- No - Please Explain
- Unsure - Please Explain

Our vision is to ensure Ohio students have access to a social studies curriculum that reflects all the communities that call Ohio home so that every student feels seen and heard in the classroom. House Bill 171 would update K-12 social studies model curriculum in Ohio to reflect all Ohioans' backgrounds and histories to help our kids understand the world, build empathy, and create better futures.

**14.** Do you support a curriculum that teaches the backgrounds and histories of all Ohioans, across all ethnicities, races, and religions?

- Yes - Please Explain
- No - Please Explain
- Unsure - Please Explain

## HOUSING

15. What will you support when you are on city council to make housing more affordable?

16. Do you support “inclusionary zoning” policies to require that some percentage of newly developed housing is set aside for low- and moderate-income families?

- Yes - Please Explain
- No - Please Explain
- Unsure - Please Explain

17. Do you support tenant protections, “just cause” eviction laws, and (if permissible under state law) rent regulations to protect tenants from unfair evictions?

- Yes - Please Explain
- No - Please Explain
- Unsure - Please Explain



18. Do you support efforts to extend legal representation to low-income tenants facing eviction in housing court?
- Yes - Please Explain
  - No - Please Explain
  - Unsure - Please Explain

19. If made possible, would you support rent control?
- Yes - Please Explain
  - No - Please Explain
  - Unsure - Please Explain

## **SOCIAL HOUSING**

Across the country, organizers and policymakers are increasingly discussing the construction of new social housing as an important part of the solution to the crisis of affordable housing facing working people in so many places. Enacting tenant protections and preserving the affordability of existing units is crucial. And, in many places, there are simply not enough homes for people who want to live and work there. New housing is healthier, climate friendly, and can encourage the use of public transit.

However, right now our policy mix for encouraging the development of new affordable housing is

offering incentives to private, profit-seeking developers. The results have been disappointing. Social housing refers to housing that is owned by the government and available to people of all incomes, typically containing a mix of market-rate and subsidized units. The rent collected from social housing developments helps maintain those developments and also facilitates the development of more social housing. Over time social housing can contribute to relieving the shortage of decent, affordable homes and decreasing our reliance on profit-seeking businesses to meet basic social needs.

**20.** Do you support the development of social housing, which is owned by the government and available to people of all incomes?

- Yes - Please Explain
- No - Please Explain
- Unsure - Please Explain

**21.** Do you support taxing regressive housing practices (speculation, short term rentals, vacation homes) to help fund social housing construction?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure - Please Explain

## **WORKERS RIGHTS, WORKER PAY, AND WORKER POWER**

Beginning with the passage of the Taft-Hartley Act in 1947, and continuing across many decades, the Federal Government has steadily narrowed the legal basis of workers' right to organize and collectively bargain. More than 40 years after the corporate class and their political allies launched an all-out war on union power, we have seen the results: stagnant wages coupled with skyrocketing CEO pay; the near-elimination of retirement security; worsening workplace safety; more states adopting "right to work"; and everywhere you look, more and

more egregious forms of exploitation.

The WFP believes that a strong labor movement is essential to the economic well-being of working people, and a bedrock of democracy. We support comprehensive and aggressive measures to shift the balance of power from bosses to workers. Right now one of WFP's top priorities is passing the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act. The PRO Act would repeal much of the anti-worker legislation that has been enacted in this country, starting with Taft-Hartley, including the ban on so-called secondary boycotts and the allowance for states to enact Right to Work laws that allow free-riding at unionized employers. PRO would levy strict penalties on employers for violations of workers' organizing rights, and would ban a number of anti-union practices that employers have perfected in recent decades, especially so-called captive audience meetings. It would protect the right to strike, and impose mandatory first contract arbitration so that employers can't undermine successful organizing efforts by dragging out negotiations.

**22. What would you see yourself supporting when you are on city council to expand opportunities for Cleveland's youth, young adults, and those who struggle economically?**

**23. Will you commit to requiring the payment of prevailing wages to service workers employed on public contracts and subsidized projects, or to support the continuation and effective enforcement of such requirements where they are already in place?**

- Yes - Please Explain
- No - Please Explain
- Unsure - Please Explain

**24.** Will you support legislation in your locality that would set a paid sick days standard, allowing workers in businesses with 15 or more employees to earn up to seven job-protected paid sick days a year?

- Yes - Please Explain
- No - Please Explain
- Unsure - Please Explain

**25.** What are your thoughts on paid family leave?

**26.** Will you pledge to use the visibility of your position to publicly support union organizing drives, contract campaigns, and strikes? Please describe your past actions and activities that demonstrate a record of commitment to workers' struggles.

- Yes - Please Explain
- No - Please Explain
- Unsure - Please Explain

27. What do you think the minimum wage should be in your municipality?

28. Do you believe there should be a lower wage for tipped workers?

- Yes - Please Explain
- No - Please Explain
- Unsure - Please Explain

## IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Across the country, people were horrified by the Trump administration's deliberate cruelty towards people seeking to come to this country, his racist demonization of them, his family separation policies, his evisceration of the right to asylum, and his determination to build a literal wall to prevent people from coming into this country. We also know that, before Donald Trump, and previous Democratic administrations used aggressive enforcement to try to win conservative support for immigration reform, with nothing to show for it except staggering numbers of deportations. In his first days as President, Joe Biden took encouraging steps to reverse some of the worst Trump-era policies. But deportations are continuing, and detentions are increasing. Since the failure to include immigration reform in a reconciliation bill while Democrats controlled both chambers of Congress, the President has opened up some new pathways to citizenship, but he has also extended Title 42 (a Trump-era policy that denies people the right to seek asylum and forces them instead into dangerous camps), and DREAMers remain in limbo.

29. What can the city do to respond to Trump's immigration policy?

30. Will you work to ensure that local law enforcement and government agencies -- including local police departments, corrections departments, school systems, and social service agencies in your district -- limit cooperation with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in enforcing federal immigration policy in the following ways? (check all that apply)

- Pressure or legislate your local corrections department to decline to cooperate with ICE detainer requests.
- Prohibit local agencies from collecting information about immigration status unless required by court order or state or federal law.
- Terminate and decline to enter into contracts with ICE, Customs and Border Protection, and the U.S. Marshals at local jails.
- Decline ICE access to local jails, except when required by court order or state or federal law.

31. What measures will you take to stop deportations of immigrants from your community?

- Fund legal counsel for immigrants in active removal proceedings, especially those in immigration detention.
- Intervene personally, including advocating with federal officials and bringing media attention to deportations.
- Coordinate with local organizations to facilitate localized response to deportation raids, spreading know your right information regarding deportation, and connecting people with legal services.
- Support enforcing the legal rights of those detained for deportation.

## ABORTION RIGHTS

WFP supports comprehensive access to contraception and abortion services as a fundamental matter of equality and economic and Reproductive Justice.

32. Which of the following measures will you take to protect those seeking abortion?

- Limit the use of government resources to criminalize or penalize abortion providers or those seeking access to abortion.
- Ensure that local government agencies do not collect information that could be used to punish abortion providers or people seeking abortion care.
- Fund abortion and related services, including travel and lodging and other reproductive and sexual health services.
- Pass a clinic safety ordinance that protects patients and providers from harassment.
- Other - Please Explain

33. Will you work to uphold the four tenets of Reproductive Justice?

- i. The right to own our bodies and control our future.
- ii. The right to have children.
- iii. The right to not have children, and.
- iv. The right to parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities.

- Yes - Please Explain
- No - Please Explain
- Unsure - please explain

## DECRIMINALIZATION AND DECARCERATION

We are in a moment of national reckoning around the often violent impact and role of policing, and the racist harms and ineffectiveness of our criminal legal system. The federal government has directly contributed to and been an enabler of local and state policies that have fueled the crisis of criminalization and incarceration, both through punitive federal policies and funding streams. We believe we must begin shifting resources away from policing, jails and detention centers, and other agencies that separate families and invest those resources into schools, housing, healthcare and jobs, to enable all people – especially Black and brown people, immigrants, and Indigenous people – to be safe and to thrive.

34. If elected, what policies regarding policing would you support? Please share how you view the role of police in your community and how would you go about implementing your policies.
35. If elected, will you support the growth of community-led public safety programs including
- Community responder programs that focus on civilian responses to types of 911 calls including behavioral health, social service calls, quality of life and conflict calls.
  - Piloting or scaling proactive programs including community violence intervention.
  - Homeless outreach and housing programs that seek to address the root causes of homelessness.
  - The creation of police civilian review boards to provide accountability for law enforcement officers.
  - The creation or expansion of youth services.
  - Locally funded addiction treatment.



36. Will you commit to oppose the criminalization of pregnancy and pregnancy outcomes and to use all tools at your disposal to block attempts to target people for their reproductive decisions?
- Yes - Please Explain
  - No - Please Explain
  - Unsure - Please Explain

## LGBTQ RIGHTS

37. Do you support measures that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender expression, and identity to ensure that LGBTQ people are protected in your community?
- Yes - Please Explain
  - No - Please Explain
  - Unsure - Please Explain
38. Do you oppose anti-LGBTQ+ policies and curricula that would negatively impact youth in schools?
- Yes - Please Explain
  - No - Please Explain
  - Unsure - Please Explain

## CREATING HEALTHY CITIES

39. Describe your agenda for expanding public transportation options in your locality:

40. Will you oppose the construction of new dirty energy infrastructure, such as coal plants and natural gas pipelines in your locality?

Yes

No

Unsure - Please Explain

## TAXATION

41. Tell us about your local budget priorities:

42. What issues will you prioritize for the usage of your city council discretionary funds?

## **STRENGTHENING THE MOVEMENT**

43. What efforts, legislations, etc. will you support to make our city government more responsive to the people who live here?

44. Please tell us in which of the following ways you are willing to help build the Working Families Party. Please check all that apply.
- I will publicly describe myself as a Working Families Democrat, Working Families Party-endorsed candidate or Working Families Party member.
  - I am (or will become) a dues-paying member of WFP.
  - I will meet with Working Families Party members and leaders at least once per quarter.
  - I will publicly commit to taking action at the request of the WFP on issues where we are aligned.
  - I will encourage my supporters to become WFP members and activists.
  - I will list the WFP endorsement (and logo when appropriate) in campaign communications.
  - I am interested in discussing and exploring a deep partnership with WFP to win my campaign and build the WFP.
  - I am not interested in any of these actions.
45. If elected, will you join Local Progress, the national network for progressive local elected officials?
- Yes
  - No
  - Unsure

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